

CLAIMS

1. Process for filling a capsule with a liquid which comprises;
 - introducing a liquid into a capsule body held in an upright orientation;
 - fitting a capsule cap over an open end of the capsule body to close the capsule; and
 - holding the closed capsule in the upright orientation until substantial stabilisation of the contents of the closed capsule;
 - said holding being completed prior to applying any sealing material to seal the capsule cap to the body.
2. Process according to claim 1 wherein said stabilisation enables substantial release of pneumatic pressure from within the closed capsule.
3. Process according to claim 1 wherein said stabilisation enables substantial solidification of a solidifiable liquid-fill.
4. Process according to claim 3 wherein the solidifiable liquid-fill is a thermoplastic or thermosetting material introduced into the capsule body in the liquid state.

5. Process according to claim 3 wherein the solidifiable liquid-fill is a thixotropic material which forms a gel-like mass once in place within the capsule body.
6. Process according to claim 1 wherein 80-95% of the capsule body is filled with the liquid fill.
7. Process according to claim 1 wherein said holding period is in the region 10-100 seconds.
8. Process according to claim 1 wherein the capsule is formed of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.
9. Process according to claim 1 wherein a sealing material is applied to seal the cap to the body.
10. Apparatus for filling a capsule with a liquid which comprises;
 - introducing means for introducing the liquid into a capsule body held in an upright orientation;
 - fitting means for fitting a capsule cap over an open end of the capsule body to close the capsule; and
 - holding means for holding the closed capsule in the upright orientation until substantial stabilisation of the contents of the closed capsule;
 - said holding being completed prior to applying any sealing material to seal the capsule cap to the body.

11. Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the closed capsules are held in a vertical array, one above the other.

12. Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said holding period is in the region 10-100 seconds.

13. Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein the closed capsules are ejected into the lower end of a substantially upright tube.

14. Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein non-return means are provided for preventing the bottom-most capsule falling back.

15. Apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the capsules are ejected out of the top of the upright tube at the end of the holding period.